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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 EB-08
AID-05 PC-01 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 ARA-10 DOEE-00
/155 W
----------019750 310936Z /17
P R 310850Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2448
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N FF I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0614

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: AFTER THE KOLWEZI ATTACK: PART I
THE EXPATRIATE PERSPECTIVE FROM SHABA

SUMMARY: SHABA'S EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY BELIEVES THAT ANOTHER KOLWEZI TYPE ATTACK IS VERY LIKELY IN THE FUTURE AND THAT ONLY A CONTINUING WESTERN MILITARY PRESENCE CAN PROVIDE ADQUATE SECURITY. ALTHOUGH PEOPLE OFFER THE RUSSIAN THREAT TO SHABA'S WEALTH AS THE RATIONALE FOR CONTINUING INTERVENTION THE GREATEST CONCERN IS PERSONAL SECURITY FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. WHILE MOST EXPATRIATES ARE AWARE OF THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT, THEY BELIEVE THAT WESTERN GEOPOLITICAL INTERESTS TAKE PRIORITY IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION. END SUMMARY

2. WESTERN GEOPOLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE THE PRIMARY REASPONSETHATTHEORETICIANS IN THE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY FEEL THAT THE WESTERN NATIONS MUST TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS. SHABA IS IMPORTANT AS ONE OF AFRICA'S
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RICHEST SOURCES OF MINERALS, PRODUCTING 60 PC OF THE WORLDS COBALT AND POSSESSING VAST RESERVES OF COPPER AND OTHER MINERALS. EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA WILL NEED THIS MINERAL WEALTH IN THE COMING DECADES. THE SHABANS WARS OF 1977 AND 1978 ARE SEEN AS ATTEMPTS BY THE SOVIET UNION, CUBA AND OTHER MARXIST STATES TO DEPRIVE THE WEST OF SHABA'S WEALTH. SOME GO FURTHER

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AND SAY THAT THE COMMUNIST WORLD IS ATTEMPTING TO FORM
A BAND OF MARXIST COUNTRIES ACROSS CENTRAL AFRICA FOR
AN UNOBSTRUCTED ASSAULT ON AFRICA. OTHERS PUT
LESS STRESS ON COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENTS IN RECENT EVENTS
BUT ALMOST ALL EXPATRIATES AGREE STRONGLY THAT IT WOULD
ONLY BE THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM
PROLONGED INSTABILITY IN ZAIRE.

3. ALTHOUGH PEOPLE SAY THE RUSSIAN/CUBAN THREAT OFFERS
THE RATIONALE FOR CONTINUING INTERVENTION THE GREATEST
CONCERN OF THE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY IS SECURITY FOR
THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE HORROR OF KOLWEZI'S
INDISCRIMINATE KILLINGS, RAPES, MOCK TRIALS, AND PLUN
DERINGS LOOMS IN THE BACK OF EVRYONES MIND. SOME
EXPATRIATES IN OTHER TOWNS HAVE ALREADY RECEIVEDHATE MAIL
WHICH THREATENS TO DISEMBOWEL AND EAT ALL MEMBERS OF
THEIR FAMILIES. MANY CLAIM THE SITUATION IS MORE DAN-
GEROUS NOW THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE INDEPENDENCE. THEY
ADMIT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS UNPOPULAR, ECONOMIC
CONDITIONS ARE DIFFICULT FOR THE AVERAGE ZAIRIAN AND
THAT FAZ IS GUILTY OF REGULARLY TERRORISING THE POPU-
LATIION, BUT THEY WANT TO STAND APART, THEY ARE ONLY
DOING THEIR JOBS. WHILE THE GOAL OF THE FLNC APPEARS
AIMED AT BRINGING CHANGE IN THE ZAIRIAN GOCERNMENT
MOST EXPATRIATES BELIEVE THAT THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES
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WILL BE THE PRIMARY VICTIMS. THEY KNOW THEIR COMPARA-
TIVE WEALTH IS ENVIED BY THE MASSES WHO HAVE SEEN SO
LITTLE BENEFIT FROM SHABA'S RICHES. SOME OF THE MORE
PERCEPTIVE EXPATRIATES ARE FURTHER AWARE THAT MANY
ZAIRIANS LOOK UPON THE WHITE COMMUNITY AS WILLING
COLLABORATORS IN KINSHASA'S EXPLOITATION OF SHABA.

4. EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY LEADERS ADMIT THAT THIS VIEW OF
SECURITY REQUIREMENTS EXCLUDES CONSIDERATION OF ZAIRIAN
INTERNAL POLITICAL ISSUES. MOBUTU'S UNIVERSAL UNPOPULARITY
IN SHABA IS READILY ADMITTED. FURTHER THEY RECOGNIZE THAT
ANY WESTERN MILTARY PRESENCE WILL PROBABLY PROP UP THE
MOBUTU GOVERNMENT ALLOWING IT TO CONTINUE ITS EXPLOITATION
OF SHABA'S WEALTH AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SHABA'S PEOPLE.
THE DAY OF RECKONING BECAUSE OF ZAIRES INTERNAL PROBLEMS
WLULD ONLY BE DELAYED BY A FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE. TO
THE EXPATRIATE THEORIST, HOWEVER THE ZAIRIAN POLITICAL
PROBLEMS MUST BE OVERLOOKED FOR THE PRESENT. THE
GEOPOLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE OF FOREMOST IMPORTANCE.
ONCE THERE IS A FOREGN TROOP PRESENCE,THEN THE
PROBLEM OF THE UNPOPULAR MOBUTU GOVERNMENT

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CAN BE CONSIDERED.

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